



Pandemic Influenza

Fact Sheet for the Public

The Disease

- Pandemic flu is a type of influenza that causes a global outbreak of serious illness that spreads easily from person to person..
- Unlike the ordinary seasonal flu that occurs every winter in Michigan, pandemic flu can occur at any time of year.
- Pandemics of influenza have occurred sporadically throughout history – three times in the last hundred years – resulting in many deaths.
- Experts predict another pandemic will occur but cannot say exactly when it will happen. When it does, it may come in two or more waves several months apart. Each wave may last two to three months.
- Pandemic flu is more serious than ordinary flu. It's possible that one quarter of the population may be seriously affected.
- Pandemic flu is likely to cause the same symptoms as ordinary flu; fever, cough, headache, fatigue, sore throat and runny nose. The symptoms may be more severe because nobody will have any immunity or protection against that particular virus.
- A serious pandemic is likely to cause many deaths, disrupt the daily life of many people and cause intense pressure on health and other services.
- Each pandemic is different, and until the virus starts circulating, it is impossible to predict its full effects.

For more information on Pandemics:

- Visit the Michigan Department of Community Health website: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>
- Visit: www.pandemicflu.gov
- Call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Response Service Hotline:
English: 1-888-246-2675, Español: 1-888-246-2857, TTY: 1-866-874-2646